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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: ) Group Art Unit: 1639  
CIPRIANI, Franco et al. ) Examining Attorney: TRAN, My-Chau T.  
Serial No.: 09/871,353 ) Confirmation No. 9560  
Filed: May 30, 2001 )  
For: Fluorescent Markers Comprising )  
Functionalized Thiophene ) Pasadena, California

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RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 17, 2004, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.